

REMARKS

Foreign Priority:

The Examiner has not acknowledged the Applicant's claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), nor has the Examiner indicated that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Applicant hereby requests the Examiner acknowledge Applicant's claim to foreign priority and that the certified copy of the priority document has been received.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning Form PTO/SB/08 A & B filed with the present application, thus indicating that all of the references listed thereon have been considered.

Specification:

The Examiner has objected to the specification, indicating that the Abstract does not comply with MPEP § 608.01(b). Applicant has provided a new Abstract, as shown in the previous section, and hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above objection to the specification.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant sincerely thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 5 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 5 has been written in independent form, and is now allowable. The original scope of claim 5 has been maintained.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-9 are all of the claims that have been examined in the present application, and claims 1-4 and 6-9 currently stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1 and 6:

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,139,448 to Sullivan. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

In the present invention, it has been discovered that the flight performance of a golf ball is improved by arranging annular raised ridge-like lands on the spherical surface, of the ball, in good balance so as to give a unique design, and more particularly by arranging annular raised ridge-like lands such that at least some annular ridges intersect with each other.

In most prior art golf balls, dimples or indentations are formed on the spherical surface. It is known that the higher the percent occupation of dimples on the spherical surface, the better the ball's flight performance. However, rather than arranging the dimples that are formed on the golf ball spherical surface by engraving the dimples, the present invention uses annular ridges that protrude from the spherical surface and appear as lands and focuses on the topography of the golf ball surface given by these ridges.

Turning now to the above rejection, Sullivan shows a golf ball having annular raised edges **6a**, **106a** (see Figures 3 and 5). However, the golf ball of the present invention is different from the golf ball of Sullivan in the construction of the ball surface. That is, the golf ball of Sullivan uses a dimple **6** having an outer annular portion **6a** and an inner circular portion **6b**.

The inner circular portion **6b** has a concave outer surface which is dressed, or extends, below the golf ball surface **4**. On the other hand, in the present invention, the parts surrounded by the annular raised ridges are not dimples but the spherical surface of the golf ball.

Further, there is no disclosure, in Sullivan, of having any ridges which intersect each other, as claimed in the present application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Sullivan fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as set forth in claim 1. Therefore, Sullivan fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 1. Further, as claim 6 depends on claim 1, Applicant submits that this claim is also allowable, at least by reason of its dependence.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1, 6 and 8:

Claims 1, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,916,044 to Shimosaka et al. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

Similar to the above Sullivan reference, Shimosaka discloses having a raised portion around at least some of the dimples, which extends beyond the radial surface of the golf ball. For example, Figures 4A and 7 show projections **2** and **2d**, respectively, which extend beyond the surface of the ball. Further, Shimosaka discloses that the protrusions can surround dimples or can extend along a strip along a great circle, on the ball. *See* Col. 1, line 65 to col. 2, line 5.

Much like Sullivan, Shimosaka fails to disclose the present invention, as set forth in claim 1. Specifically, the golf ball of Shimosaka forms the dimple A' surrounded by the annular protrusion 2d. However, in the present invention, the parts surrounded by the annular raised ridges are not dimple portions but the spherical surface of the golf ball. Thus, the golf ball of Shimosaka is different from that of the present invention in the construction of the ball surface.

Additionally, there is no disclosure of intersecting the ridges or raised portions, as in the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Shimosaka fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as set forth in claim 1. Therefore, Shimosaka fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 1. Further, as claims 6 and 8 depend on claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection - Claims 1-4 and 6-9:

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,290,615 to Ogg. In view of the following discussion, Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejection.

With regard to the Ogg reference, the Examiner asserts that Ogg shows a golf ball having projections (40), or annular raised ridges (see Figure 4A, 5 and 6), and that Figure 4 shows the ridges intersecting each other. However, Applicant disagrees with the Examiner and asserts that the Examiner's consideration and view of Ogg is not accurate.

Specifically, the golf ball of Ogg does not use annular raised ridges but pentagonal and hexagonal raised ridges. This is different from the claimed invention. Namely, the present invention is (i) a golf ball having a spherical surface which is integrally provided with a plurality of annular raised ridges protruded from the spherical surface, and (ii) where at least some annular ridges intersect with each other. *See* claim 1.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Ogg does not disclose or suggest that some annular ridges intersect with each other. As shown in at least Figure 1, Ogg does not disclose or suggest that some annular ridges intersect with each other, but only that adjacent dimples share a common wall or ridge structure. There is no intersection of ridges, as set forth and claimed in the present application. Additionally, there is no intersection of ridges so as to define small zones of complex shapes on the spherical surface. *See* new claim 10.

In Ogg, a plurality of projections 40 extended straightly are combined with each other to form a hexagonal shape or a pentagonal shape as shown in Fig. 1. But, none of the hexagonal/pentagonal shapes disclosed in Ogg does not intersect each other.

Additionally, since Ogg uses polygonal raised ridges on the ball surface, the ball surface of Ogg is anisotropic in shape. As a result, the golf ball of Ogg has inferior performance. Namely, the Ogg golf ball has inferior spin rate performance because a difference in the spin rate may arise by the difference of the rotating direction of the golf ball. On the other hand, in the present invention, the flight performance is not influenced by the difference of the rotating direction of the struck ball, because the annular raised ridges are not anisotropic in shape.

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In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Ogg fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention, as set forth in claim 1. Therefore, Ogg fails to anticipate the claimed invention, as required under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Accordingly, Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claim 1. Further, as claims 2-4 and 6-9 depend on claim 1, Applicant submits that these claims are also allowable, at least by reason of their dependence.

Conclusion:

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

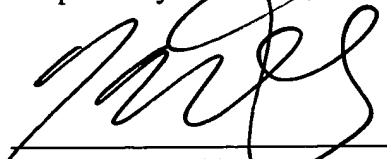
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